SEBI has initiated steps to amend the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1993. The suggested measures will improve working of the mutural funds and give a greater degree of freedom to the Fund managers within a well-regulated framework as well as increase the level of investor protection.

Passenger facilities at Imphal Airport

903. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is immediate need to improve the passenger facilities available at the Imphal Airport; and

(b) the steps taken for introduction of night landing facilities at this airport?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir. The existing terminal is proposed to be extended and modified at an estimated cost of Rs. 14.79 crores.

(b) Night Landing facilities already exist at the Imphal airpot.

Work load of Indian Pilots

904. DR. D. MASTHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Pilots are getting tired because of over burdening of the work load; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to avoid the over burdening of the work load and to ensure efficient functioning of our pilots?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI CM. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) No Sir. The Flight and Duty Time Limitations (FDTL) for pilots as laid down by DGCA, are adhered to by the Indian operators.

Contesting of election by non-serious and criminal candidates

905. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of non-serious and criminal candidates are contesting the elections which is a great harm to the democratic system and the body polity;

(b) whether Government propose to amend the Representation of the People Act for preventing non-serious candidates and the candidates having a criminal background from contesting the elections as was suggested by the Chief Election Commissioner; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPTT. OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPTT. AND DEPTT. OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) to (c) Any person who is convicted for any offence mentioned in section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 gets disqualified for such periods as are mentioned in that section. In the recently held elections, a large number of independent candidates, however, had contested the elections from certain constituencies. Various measures to discourage non-serious candidates from contesting elections have been under consideration of the Government. A final decision in the matter is likely to be taken shortly.

राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों को गैर-सरकारी तथा विदेशी बैंककारी संस्थान से प्रतिस्पर्द्धा करने के निदेश

906. **श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला:**
श्री नागमणि:

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों को गैर-सरकारी और विदेशी बैंककारी संस्थान से समान नियमों और शर्तों पर प्रतिस्पर्द्धा करने का निदेश देने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसका ग्राहकों पर क्या प्रभाव पड़ेगा;

(ग) क्या सरकार को इस संबंध में प्रमुख बैंकरों और ट्रेड यूनियनों से कोई ज्ञापन प्राप्त हुआ है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और सरकार की इस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

वित्त मंत्री और कम्पनी कार्य मंत्री (श्री पी० चिदम्बरम): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) यह सवाल पैदा ही नहीं होता।

(ग) यद्यपि सरकारी क्षेत्र के बैंकों , गैर- सरकारी क्षेत्र के बैंकों और विदेशी बैंकों के कार्यकरण के विभिन्न पहलुओं के संबंध में समय-समय पर विभिन्न स्रोतों से सुझाव प्राप्त हुए हैं; तथापि यह प्रतीत होता है कि हाल ही में इस संबंध में बैंकों और ट्रेड यूनियनों से कोई ज्ञापन प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है।

(घ) यह सवाल पैदा ही नहीं होता।

DA Instalment for Central Government employees

907. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether another instalment of Dearness Allowance has become due for payment to the Central Government employees from July, 1996; and

(b) if so, by when the D.A. instalment is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) In terms of the existing formula relating to the grant of dearness allowance to Central Government employees, which is based on the recommendations of the 4th Central Pay Commission, additional instalments of dearness allowance become due from 1st January and 1st July every year on the basis of percentage increase in the 12 monthly average of All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (General) (1960-100) over the base index of 608. The instalment due from 1st July normally becomes payable with the salary for the month of September.

Uniform Civil Code in Goa

908. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention" has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Times of India of 27th June, 1996, under the capition "Uniform Civil Code in Goa protects Women's Rights";

(b) if so, whether any study has been made in the matter; and

(c) whether Government would adopt the law on an All India basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPTT. OF LEGAL AFFAIRS LEGISLATIVE DEPTT. AND DEPTT. OF JUSTICE (SHRI, RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

Loss suffered by Air India

909. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India suffered a loss of Rs. 250 crores in the last financial year and further loss of Rs. 120 crores in the first two months of the current year;

(b) whether this is due to industrial unrest, ageing aircrafts, excessive pay hikes, internal squabbles and other reasons of similar nature which still persist;

(c) whether the Parliamentary Committee was duly and correctly informed of this adverse trend;

(d) if so, whether accountability for this loss has been fixed;

(e) the remedial measures being taken in this regard; and